

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 2-11 are pending. Claims 9, 2, 3, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Larson et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,425,968). Claims 3-8 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Larson '968 in view of Vu (U.S. Patent No. 4,710,560). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 9 has been amended. Support for the amendment is found in the specification as filed, at least at page 3, lines 3-8.

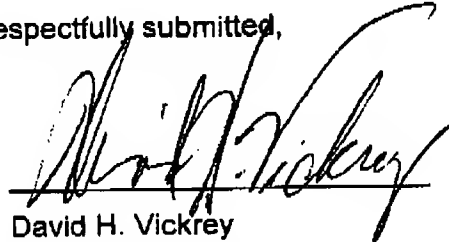
Turning to the rejections of claims 9, 2, 3, 10 and 11 as anticipated by Larson '968, the Applicants point out that the amendment to claim 9 requires the setting the subsequent mixing ratio without dismantling the apparatus. In claim 10, components A, B and C "remain fixed in the apparatus during steps (ii)-(v)", that is, there is no dismantling. In claim 11, "components A, B and C remain loaded in the plural component apparatus", that is, not dismantled, when the second mixing ratio is set. Larson '968 discloses changing ratios using a cylinder of a different diameter or changing the diameters of the cylinders as well as the diameters of the cylinder rods. (See, for example, col. 7, lines 36-52) As Applicants see it, in such cases, the apparatus of Larson '968 would require the dismantling of at least one cylinder, therefore dismantling the apparatus. The rejected claims 9, 2, 3, 10 and 11 require setting another mixing ratio without dismantling the apparatus. Accordingly, Larson '968 does not anticipate these claims.

Claims 3-8 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Larson '968 in view of Vu '560. Again, the Applicants respectfully traverse. Vu '560 fails to correct the deficiency of Larson '968. For this reason alone, the combination of Larson '968 and Vu '560 does not render claims 3-8 obvious.

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In view of the amendments and comments presented, the allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned if it could be helpful in advancing this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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